

GUITAR

Technical Field

[0001] The present invention relates generally to musical instruments, and more specifically to acoustical guitars constructed to substantially increase comfort for the human anatomy and to make it easier to play acoustical guitars.

5 Cross-Reference to Related Application

[0002] This application claims the benefit of provisional application serial number 60/498,401 filed on August 28, 2003 which is hereby incorporated by reference in its entirety.

Background of the Invention

10 [0003] Because of the way the back of an acoustic guitar is pressed against the breast of an instrumentalist, playing of the guitar can be difficult and uncomfortable. Women, especially, often cannot practice as long as desired because of the pain which results. As hereinafter discussed in more detail, other problems caused by conventional guitars include improper posture, an inability to
15 sing properly as a result of distorted posture and the commonly accepted position of EQ panels. These problems have been discussed for years, but have been left unnoticed and unaddressed by guitar companies throughout the long history of guitar making.

20 [0004] Technically speaking, when playing the acoustical guitar "in position", there are three choices. One choice is for the player to rest her or his breast against the first upper curve of the back of the guitar. Unfortunately, this is where several guitar companies place the EQ panels. The breast can involuntarily turn the knobs during performance. Then there also exists a subtle change or contortion of

the rib cage and the spine that takes place in order to accommodate the instrument. This leads to improper posture and is not conducive to proper singing technique. As any highly trained vocalist knows, vocal chords are an extremely touchy, delicate and precise instrument. They require space and freedom of movement in the entire
5 body for ultimate projection. For those singers/song writers who use the guitar as a tool for momentum and interaction of chords and melodic structure of the song, physical distortion of the body brought on by use of conventional guitars is very serious. A second alternative is simply to place the guitar where its line jabs into the side of the breast. A third alternative is for a female player, but not necessarily a
10 male player, to push herself down and left into the center of the back of the guitar. This is a constrictive position and causes tightening of the chest. Again, this is not conducive to good singing performance and can lead to an early onset of osteoporosis because of the slouch that the player assumes.

Summary of the Invention

15 [0005] An object of this invention is to provide a new and improved acoustical guitar construction that overcomes the problems discussed above and substantially increases comfort for the human anatomy, especially the female. The invention makes it easier to play an acoustical guitar and leads to improved performance by a singer/guitar player.

20 [0006] This objective is achieved by forming a portion of the back and adjacent side edge of the guitar to conform with the breast area of the instrumentalist. In a preferred construction, the breast-accommodating formation is a molded insert. The molded insert can be customized to conform to the breast size, e.g. A, B or C cup, of a female instrumentalist. An alternative is simply to form
25 a "universal" cup indention in the back of the guitar. In yet another embodiment, the wood on the back of the guitar provides a space or hole for clearance of the chest.

Description of the Drawings

[0007] Figure 1 is a perspective view showing the new guitar in use.

[0008] Figure 2 is a perspective view showing the back and sides of a

referred embodiment.

[0009] Figure 3 is a fragmentary view taken in the plane 3-3 of Figure 1.

[0010] Figure 4 is a back elevational view of the guitar.

[0011] Figure 5 is a side elevational view of the guitar.

5 [0012] Figure 6 is an elevational view of the back of an acoustical guitar formed in accordance with another embodiment of the invention.

[0013] Figure 7 is a side elevational view of the guitar shown in Figure 6.

Description of Preferred Embodiment

10 [0014] Referring now to the drawings and to Figures 1-5 in particular, there is shown an acoustical guitar 10 made according to a preferred embodiment of the invention. The guitar 10 has a back 11 and sides 12, 13.

[0015] In accordance with the invention, a portion of the back 11 and the side 12 are formed with a relieved area or indentation 15 which is generally cup-shaped. In the case of a female instrumentalist shown in Figures 1 and 3, the formation 15 is shaped to accommodate her breast. As shown, the edge 16 of the cup-shaped indentation 15 curves from the upper right hand shoulder bout 17 of the side 12 toward the center line of the guitar back 11 and then out to the lower bout in a wave shape.

20 [0016] In the preferred embodiment of the invention, the breast-accommodating indentation 15 is an insert made of any suitable material, such as wood, thin metal or plastic. Preferably, it is made from a material such as a fiber reinforced plastic or other material that can be molded. The insert forming the area 15 can be custom molded to fit the breast of a female user. The insert can be of any desired cup size, e.g. A, B or C to accommodate a particular person, or it can simply be one universal size.

25 [0017] In making the guitar 10, a portion of the back 11 and the side 12 of the guitar is cut out and the molded insert 15 is secured in place to form the breast-accommodating indentation. When personalizing the guitar 10, the size of the cup-shaped indentation 15 simply involves trying out various sizes for a specific user to determine which one feels the most comfortable. The selected insert is then

secured in place in any suitable manner.

[0018] As shown in Figures 1 and 3, the cup-shaped insert 15 conforms to the breast of the female instrumentalist. The guitar “hugs” the user so that she is more connected to the sound. The guitar is very comfortable to use and can be played for hours without discomfort. It will be apparent that the user is not required to alter her physical position from one that is most conducive to proper singing and posture.

[0019] In an alternative construction shown in Figures 6 and 7, a guitar 10' has its back 11' and right side 12' cut out to provide a breast-accommodating hole 20. As in the case of the guitar 10, the edge 16' of the hole 20 curves from the upper right hand shoulder bout 17' toward the center of the guitar back and then out to the lower right hand bout 18' in a wave shape. The hole 20 performs the desired function of relieving pressure against the breast of the instrumentalist.

[0020] Many modifications and variations of the invention will be apparent to those skilled in the art in view of the foregoing disclosure. Therefore, it is to be understood that, within the scope of the appended claims, the invention can be practiced otherwise than as specifically shown and described.